

November 21, 1989

President John P. Crecine  
Carnegie Building  
Campus 0325

Dear President Crecine:

It is a pleasure for me to present to you the case for the promotion of Theodore P. Hill. Ted Hill has been an Associate Professor already for five years. His record during these five years, as well as for his entire twelve years at Georgia Tech, has been exemplary.

If the ideal for the qualifications an educator should possess in order to be promoted to Full Professor includes that he should have international recognition for fundamental research that provoked others to further studies, Hill meets this criterion. Over and over, the letters of reference from The Netherlands, from West Germany, from Norway, as well as from the States, emphasize the importance of his work with prophet inequalities, partitioning problems, and optimal stopping problems. Having a faculty member who has been at the forefront of such a body of work has naturally attracted the interest of colleagues here at Tech. Their collaboration has resulted in having an internationally recognized group of experts in this field within our School.

The Director of the Institute of Mathematical Stochastics at the University of Gottingen, Professor Ulrich Krengel, says that his decision to spend a sabbatical at Georgia Tech was influenced by seeing Hill's work at Oberwolfach in West Germany. Indeed, Hill has lectured about this work around the globe--for example, in Hawaii, Australia, Israel, Germany, and The Netherlands.

Ted Hill has achieved international recognition for his provocative fundamental research.

If the ideal for the qualifications that an educator should possess in order to be promoted to Full Professor includes that he should provide inspiration to students at all levels, then Ted Hill meets this criterion. Often when the faculty is deeply engrossed in their work, only the upper-division undergraduates and graduate students among the student body see the spark of the creative energies. Yet, Hill's lectures have the reputation of being among the best within not only the School, but even the Institute. One has only to look at his teaching evaluations for confirmation. His success as a lecturer is so well known that we

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have asked him to make presentations to potential graduate students as they visit the campus and to high school students who are considering Georgia Tech for their studies. To find such a well-received lecturer at all levels is rare. The School of Mathematics is proud to have Ted as its widely known representative, as indicated in the long list of invited research addresses at many universities.

Finally, Professor Hill is so well organized in his work that he is the kind of faculty member I can ask to do administrative tasks for the School and know that they will be done in an efficient and timely manner. In fact, in this year he has two demanding jobs within the School: he is on the Junior Promotion and Tenure Committee and serves as Chairman of the Hiring Committee, a time-consuming job.

In summary, I am happy to commend this scholar who more than meets the requirements to be promoted to Full Professor. Indeed, perhaps we should take note of the question asked by several of the reviewers as to whether the promotion is not past due. I hope that this question will be removed as soon as possible, that thereafter as Hill is introduced at his lectures at colloquia and seminars around the world, it will be as a Full Professor at Georgia Tech.

Sincerely,

S. N. Chow

Shui-Nee Chow, Director  
School of Mathematics

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